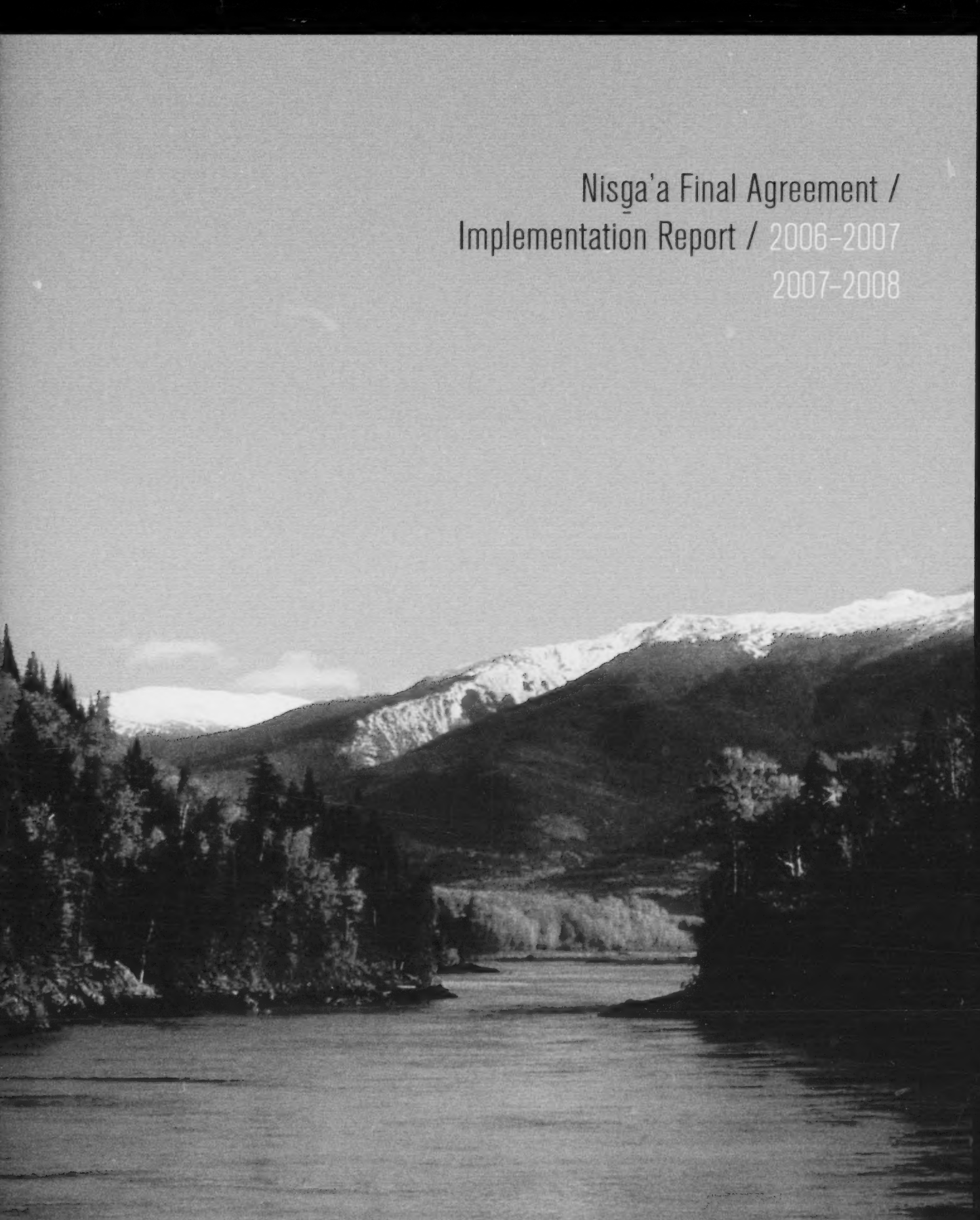
Nisga'a Final Agreement / Implementation Report / 2006-2007 2007-2008



NISGA'A — PEOPLE OF THE NASS RIVER

K'alii Aksim Lisims (the Nass River) flows through a land of sacred mountains and dense forests on Canada's Pacific Coast. The Nisga'a people have lived in the Nass River Valley since before recorded time. Today, the Nisga'a Nation includes more than 6,200 people residing in the Nisga'a Villages of Gingolx, Laxgalts'ap, Gitwinksihlkw, New Aiyansh and outside of the Nass Valley in Terrace, Prince Rupert/Port Edward, Greater Vancouver, and across North America.

OUR TREATY

May 11, 2000, marked the end of a 113-year journey — and the first steps in a new direction. On that date, the Effective Date of the Nisga'a Final Agreement (the Treaty), the *Indian Act* ceased to apply to Nisga'a people (except for the purpose of determining whether an individual is an "Indian"). For the first time in modern history, the Nisga'a people had the legal authority to conduct their own affairs. The Treaty recognizes Nisga'a Lands (2000 km²) and opens the door for joint economic initiatives in the development of the Nisga'a Nation's natural resources. An example of hope, trust, and cooperation, the Nisga'a Final Agreement is being studied by governments and aboriginal peoples the world over.

OUR GOVERNMENT

The Nisga'a Final Agreement provides certainty with respect to the Nisga'a people's self-determination. The Nisga'a Nation is represented by Nisga'a Lisims Government (NLG) — a modern, forward-thinking administration based on traditional culture and values. Nisga'a Government has the authority to pass laws on a broad range of matters. At the same time, Nisga'a lawmaking authority is concurrent with federal or provincial authority.

Proud British Columbians and Canadians, Nisga'a citizens are responsible for building and maintaining their own institutions. Designed to assure democracy, transparency, and accountability, Nisga'a Government is comprised of NLG and the four Nisga'a Village Governments. NLG's President, Chairperson, Secretary-Treasurer, and Chairperson of the Council of Elders are elected at large by Nisga'a citizens. The elected members of each Nisga'a Village Government are elected by the residents of each Nisga'a Village. Wilp Si'ayuukhl Nisga'a (WSN), the government's legislative assembly, enacts laws within its jurisdiction. These laws make up the Nisga'a Registry of Laws. WSN also adopted balanced budgets for the fiscal years 2006/2007 and 2007/2008.

OUR VISION

"Sayt-K'ilim-Goot: one heart, one path, one nation." Sayt-K'ilim-Goot serves as a compass, providing clarity and direction. NLG is committed to ensuring its programs, services, and day-to-day operations reflect this vision.

In the spirit of Sayt-K'ilim-Goot, the Nisga'a Nation is a place where:

> our Ayuuk, language, and culture are the foundation of our identity
> learning is a way of life
> we strive for sustainable prosperity and self-reliance
> we inspire trust and understanding through effective communication, and
> our governance and services evolve to meet our people's needs.

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Ni̓lhl g̱an aluut'a on a naa ni̓uum̓wil dip hooxhl ayuug̱am̓, algax̱am̓, g̱anhl lip wilaa loom̓ >

NISG̱A'A CULTURE & HERITAGE

Nisg̱a'a Lisims Government is committed to protecting and promoting Nisg̱a'a culture in all aspects of society. Ayuukhl Nisg̱a'a — the ancient laws and customs of the Nisg̱a'a people — informs, guides, and inspires Nisg̱a'a culture.

Ayuukhl Nisg̱a'a Department

The Ayuuk Nisg̱a'a Department (AND) protects, preserves, and promotes Nisg̱a'a language, culture, and history. The department works to ensure Nisg̱a'a people are politically, economically, socially, and spiritually healthy, and empowered by a thorough understanding of Nisg̱a'a culture. AND supports the cultural integrity of government programs and services by preserving the past and ensuring that Nisg̱a'a knowledge and tradition inform government practices. This is achieved through:

> development and maintenance of the catalogue system for Nisg̱a'a archives
> resource and administrative support for the Council of Elders and various government committees
> liaison and negotiations with the Royal British Columbia Museum, Royal Ontario Museum, and Smithsonian Institute, and
> research and production of books on key aspects of Nisg̱a'a culture.

2006–2007

Work continued on the Yukw Document—the first transcribed version of the oral tradition of the feast system, which is a cornerstone of Nisg̱a'a culture. The Yukw Document represents the very essence of the Ayuukhl Nisg̱a'a.

AND relocated important documents and archival material to secure NLG storage facilities in New Aiyansh.

NLG, Wilp Wilxo'oskwhl Nisg̱a'a Institute (Nisg̱a'a House of Wisdom or WWNI), and School District #92 (Nisg̱a'a) agreed to operate the Nisg̱a'a Nation Language and Culture Resource Centre. The School District began renovating one of its facilities (Raven House) for this purpose. The centre will preserve Nisg̱a'a history, language, and cultural practices, and make Nisg̱a'a cultural resources accessible to the public.

2007–2008

After six years of dedicated work, the final printed version of the Yukw Document — Anhluut'ukwsim Saw'inskwhl Nisg̱a'a — was completed in the first quarter of 2008 and presented for the first time at the 2008 Nisg̱a'a Nation Special Assembly. A cornerstone of the Nisg̱a'a Nation, the Yukw Document is a gift to future generations.

Funding was secured to begin the professional assessment of archival materials and other collections stored in AND repositories. Through a university archivist program, NLG and AND have entered into a joint initiative with the University of British Columbia (UBC) to set up a proper archival system.

British Columbia issued four archaeological permits for work in the Nass Area after consulting with NLG.

Long-term Goals

> use Nisga'a as a working language of Nisga'a Government
> open an operational Nisga'a National Archives to offer access to Nisga'a citizens and the world
> protect and enhance all Nisga'a heritage sites
> safeguard Nisga'a Lands and resources with Nisga'a volunteers
> connect Nisga'a youth and elders through meaningful programs

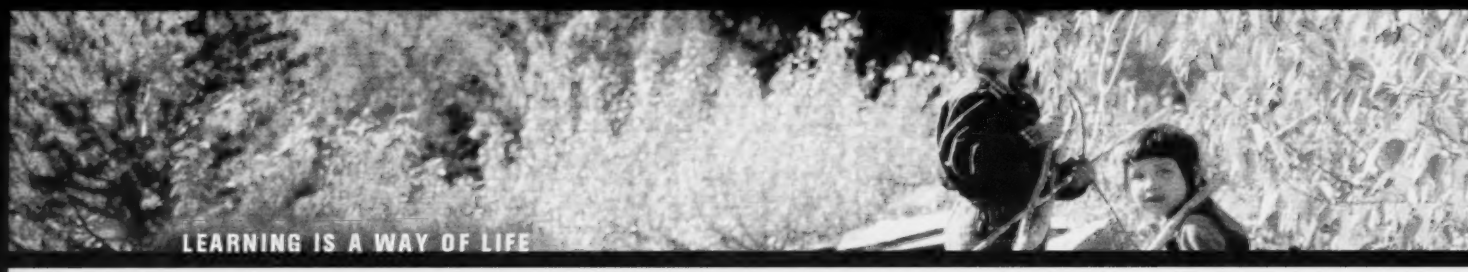
NISGA'A MUSEUM

Together with the Nisga'a Foundation (a registered charitable society), NLG is building a Nisga'a Museum. This facility was a condition of the Nisga'a Final Agreement for patriation of Nisga'a artifacts. When complete, the facility will house nearly 300 Nisga'a artifacts and be a permanent place for Nisga'a people and visitors to experience the rich life and legacy of Nisga'a culture. This state-of-the-art facility will include archival software systems, listening booths, computerized office space, a library and teaching centre, and a gift shop to showcase Nisga'a art and artists. The Nisga'a Museum is scheduled to open in summer, 2010.

2006–2007	2007–2008
A site was selected for the Nisga'a Museum at Laxgalts'ap.	Groundbreaking began for the Nisga'a Museum.
AND became an active participant in the Nisga'a Museum Project through the NLG Museum Group.	Museum information package, branding identity, and website creation began.

ANHLUUT'UKWSIM LAXMIHL ANGWINGA'ASANSKWHL NISGA'A (Nisga'a Memorial Lava Bed Park)
Nisga'a Memorial Lava Bed Park — the first provincial park managed jointly by a First Nation and British Columbia — offers interpretation of spectacular natural features and a dramatic introduction to Nisga'a culture. The Nisga'a alkali basalt flow is one of the youngest and most accessible volcanic features in the province. With a 16-site vehicle campground, picnic areas, visitor information centre, boat launches, and short hikes, the park offers visitors a wide variety of activities and a chance to learn more about Nisga'a culture and the natural history of the region. British Columbia funds an annual agreement for park services and maintenance ($45,000).

2007–2008
Nisga'a Memorial Lava Bed and Cone Tour developed by Nisga'a Commercial Group of Companies.



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PRIMARY & SECONDARY EDUCATION

The Nisga'a Nation is committed to improving its education system, helping adult learners gain more training, and encouraging all Nisga'a to engage in lifelong learning to help build the economy and strengthen Nisga'a society. On Nisga'a Lands, primary and secondary students are served by School District #92 (Nisga'a), part of British Columbia's publicly funded school system. The school board consists of four Nisga'a members (representing each Nisga'a Village) and one non-Nisga'a member. Nisga'a Lisims Government works in partnership with the district to foster and protect Nisga'a language and culture while seeking to raise the standard of education for all Nass Valley youth.

Compared to the provincial average, Nisga'a youth represent a higher proportion of the population in their communities. NLG continues to plan for the current and future educational needs of Nisga'a youth so that they will be fully prepared to participate in the economy.

2007–2008

British Columbia provided a direct access grant of $7,940 to the Nisga'a Elementary Secondary School Parent Advisory Council. Seven students also participated in a two-week BCIT Video Production training course, funded by British Columbia, designed to promote the development of community-based aboriginal video producers.

Nisga'a high school completion rates

Percentage of aboriginal students eligible to graduate who graduated.
Source: Grade 12 Graduation Rates 2003/04–2007/08 School District #92 — Nisga'a, BC Ministry of Education, January 2009.

Post-Secondary enrollment and completion rates of Nisga'a citizens

	2006–2007				2007–2008			
Educational Institution	**Enrollment**		**Completion rate %**		**Enrollment**		**Completion rate %**	
	FEMALE	MALE	FEMALE	MALE	FEMALE	MALE	FEMALE	MALE
University	38	15	50.00%	40.00%	52	14	40.38%	57.14%
University College	11	2	18.18%	00.00%	4	9	50.00%	22.22%
College (public/private)	66	34	43.94%	50.00%	83	67	53.01%	46.27%
Institutes	11	7	27.27%	00.00%	5	5	20.00%	100.00%
Private Post-Secondary Institutions	0	0	00.00%	00.00%	8	9	75.00%	33.33%
TOTAL*	**126**	**58**	**42.06%**	**39.66%**	**152**	**104**	**48.68%**	**47.12%**

*The completion rates in this line represent the total number of graduates as a percentage of the total number of enrollees for all institution types shown in the table.

Post-Secondary Education

WWNI offers Nisga'a-based post-secondary programs in Nisga'a communities and select urban centres. Serving both Nisga'a and non-Nisga'a students since 1993, WWNI partners with a number of public institutions for the delivery of programs, including:

- Bachelor of Arts, First Nations Studies-Nisga'a
- Northern Advancement Program (university preparation)
- Education Diploma in Nisga'a Language and Culture
- vocational and technical training
- grade 12 achievement
- university/college preparation
- Carpentry/Timber Framing, and
- continuing education programs.

In addition, NLG funds Nisga'a students pursuing post-secondary education throughout BC and North America.

2006–2007

The technical working group, consisting of the Director of Programs & Services and the four education coordinators from each Nisga'a Village Government, began drafting the uniform Nisga'a Post-Secondary Education Assistance Policy.

Canada provided: $110,700 to WWNI to assist with the Nisga'a Language Education Diploma Program.

2007–2008

The draft Nisga'a Post-Secondary Education Assistance Policy was reviewed by the Programs & Services Committee and is currently a work in progress.

14 Nisga'a citizens successfully completed training in electrical work and plumbing in New Aiyansh.

Through the Indian Studies Support Program, Canada provided: $196,000 to fund WWNI programs, offering university preparation courses for students not eligible to be funded through the Nominal Roll. British Columbia provided: $17,100 to fund WWNI's Nisga'a Access Practical Nursing project, which will assist aboriginal home support resident care workers in the Nass Valley in obtaining the prerequisite courses for admission to a licensed practical nursing program. In addition, Nisga'a-specific cultural knowledge of health and healing will be developed for inclusion in the practical nursing curriculum.

Wilp Wilxo'oskwhl Nisga'a Foundation

The Wilp Wilxo'oskwhl Nisga'a Foundation (a registered charitable society) was established in order to build a secure, independent funding base for capital projects, student scholarships and bursaries, faculty and staff development, and other priorities.

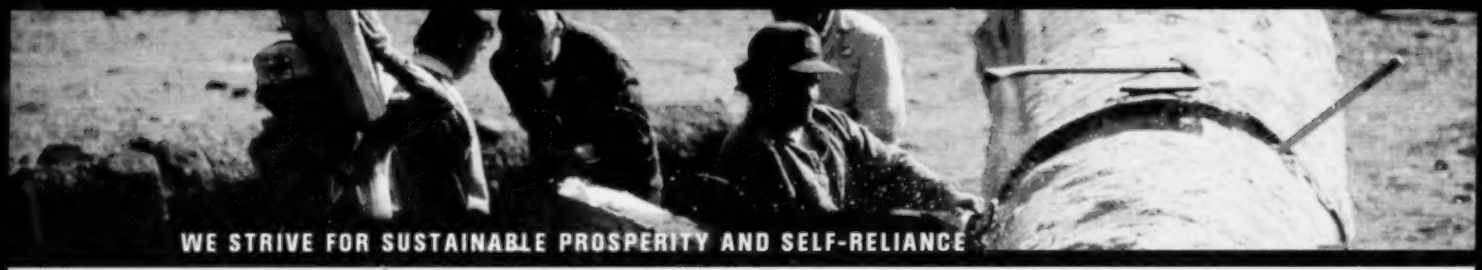
From its inception, WWNI has received strong support from both the Nisga'a people and British Columbia. In a demonstration of community support, the Nisga'a business community initially contributed $100,000, and later made a $250,000 donation to the Nisga'a Endowment Fund. This was generously matched by British Columbia and the University of Northern British Columbia. Since 1994, the endowment has continued to grow — largely through the generosity of donors who recognize WWNI's need for flexibility and increased financial independence.

2006–2007

Value of fund at end of fiscal year: $890,807.

2007–2008

Value of fund at end of fiscal year: $936,106.



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NISGA'A ECONOMY

The Nisga'a economy is a fully integrated part of the economy of northwest British Columbia — with all the opportunities and challenges that implies. The primary industries in the Nass Valley are fishing and forestry. Seasonal resource industries are complemented by full-time employment in the government, education, and healthcare sectors. Since May 11, 2000, infrastructure improvements have brought new jobs and skills to the Nass Valley while tourism and telecommunication offer the promise of expanding and diversifying employment opportunities. From small, local business ventures to international partnerships, Nisga'a Lisims Government actively supports and facilitates new initiatives to improve employment opportunities in the Nass Valley.

Percentage of Population Receiving Employment Insurance Benefits

	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Nisga'a	5.6	6.7	4.3	7.2	7.3	8.1	8.3	6.3	3.8	5.9
BC	2.9	2.8	2.2	2.8	3.0	3.1	2.9	2.5	2.3	2.4

*Assessment reflects beneficiaries as a percentage of the population age 19–64 for September of each year. Source: Human Resources & Social Development Canada Administrative Files and BCStats Population Estimate.

Forest Resources Department

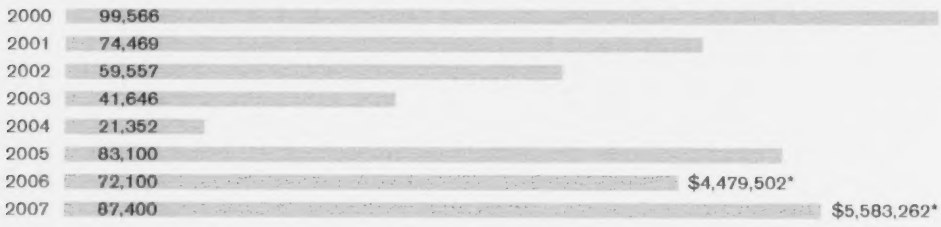
NLG manages Nisga'a forests to protect this natural inheritance and to provide employment for Nisga'a people. Ecological sustainability is a prime consideration in the development and approval of all operations within Nisga'a Lands, and the *Nisga'a Forest Act* sets high standards to maintain biodiversity. NLG also manages all land and forest resources on Nisga'a Lands, including non-timber resources. Pine mushrooms, a popular delicacy in Asia, are a valuable resource found in Nisga'a forests and are harvested seasonally.

Botanical Forest Products Harvested Since 2000 (Mushrooms)

2006–2007	2007–2008
WSN passed a resolution to seek funding for the restoration of the Nass bottomlands. Climate change has presented a new opportunity to fund these forest restoration activities. A North American market has recently emerged that could provide the level of funding sufficient to restore large tracts of the Nass bottomlands. This new opportunity could also have significant employment benefits over an estimated 20 years. A 6-hectare pilot project has been planned to assess the feasibility of entering into a larger agreement. These projects could inject $20–30 million into the local economy over the next 20 years.	British Columbia's Forest Practices Board released the "Audit of Forest Practices & Planning on Nisga'a Lands, May 2007." The audit found that: "The silviculture, road maintenance, bridge maintenance and road deactivation activities of New Skeena Forest Products were found to be in significant non-compliance with the requirements of the Code and the Agreement as of May 2005." Further, this non-compliance was pervasive across all elements of the company's operations on Nisga'a Lands. As a result, British Columbia was required to take its own actions in relation to unaddressed harvest clean-up, silviculture survey, and road maintenance and road deactivation obligations in order to reduce the potential for future significant environmental impacts on Nisga'a Lands. British Columbia has spent $1.5 million since 2005 in support of these actions. At the request of NLG, the Forest Practices Board has agreed to complete an additional 2008 audit of the obligations assumed by BC.
NLG implemented an assessment of the cedar resource, how it can be utilized, and what actions can be taken to ensure the resource provides the best long-term value to the Nisga'a Nation. This report is expected in June 2008.	Deactivation was completed on 13 roads and the road permits were cancelled. The remaining roads are "secondary provincial roads," and are the responsibility of British Columbia as specified in the Nisga'a Final Agreement. Road maintenance on the secondary provincial roads is up to date, with some of the work being completed by Nisga'a contractors. Routine inspections were completed on approximately 60 structures (bridges, box culverts, culverts). Highlights of the maintenance work are the installation of a replacement bridge on the Ksi Mhe'in road and the construction of a by-pass on the Ksi Hlginx River.
By the end of the 2006 road work season, approximately 90 percent of road repair or deactivation work had been completed, including: installation of a replacement bridge and construction of a by-pass on the Ksi Hlginx River. Wherever possible, Nisga'a contractors were employed.	The Nisga'a-British Columbia Forest Service Forestry Committee replaced the Forestry Transition Committee, which had been established by the Nisga'a Final Agreement. Beginning in 2007, quarterly meetings of the new committee were held. The purpose of these meetings is to discuss issues and questions regarding forestry-related activities that are happening on and around Nisga'a Lands.
A joint examination of Ksedin Camp was conducted by NLG, British Columbia, and Northwest Response (soil contamination testing and remediation contractor). The following process for decommissioning this old logging camp was agreed to: removal of all fuel, oils, above-ground and in-ground structures; and retesting and remediation of contaminated soil. This work is ongoing and will be completed in 2008.	British Columbia ordered 142,000 seedlings (with an additional 26,000 surplus seedlings) from Lisims Forest Resources. In spring 2008, 155,000 seedlings were planted.

A planning workshop was held in Terrace to review British Columbia forestry obligations set out in the Nisga'a Final Agreement (roads, cutblocks, abandoned logging camp). Sixteen representatives from Nisga'a and provincial agencies met for two days and compiled a plan to best address these outstanding obligations.

Cubic Metres of Timber Harvested Since 2000



*Dollar value of timber sales reported beginning in 2006.

Timber Harvest Activity

Tough times continue for the forest industry, especially in northwest British Columbia. Two factors have allowed the small amount of logging on Nisga'a Lands to continue: good cedar markets and the viability of saw log exports. The result has been that 90 percent of all timber harvested from Nisga'a Lands are saw logs and an increased percentage has been cedar.

The Annual Allowable Cut on Nisga'a Lands was 135,000 cubic metres for each year. NLG collects a silviculture levy to ensure reforestation of cut-blocks is funded over the long term. The current fund is approximately $1 million.

Nisga'a Fisheries Management Program

One of the healthiest river systems in the world, K'alii Aksim Lisims (the Nass) is the spawning grounds of five species of wild salmon, steelhead, and oolichan. NLG and Canada manage the Nass River salmon fishery to preserve the resource, to provide for Nisga'a people, and to support a modern, sustainable fishing industry. NLG works with British Columbia to manage the non-salmon sport fishery. Facilitated through the Joint Fisheries Management Committee (comprised of representatives from Canada, British Columbia, and NLG) the Nisga'a Fisheries Management Program utilizes fish wheels and other technologies on the Nass River for salmon monitoring, tagging, and data collection, and conducts stock assessments on a variety of species throughout the Nass Area.

During the 2006–2007 reporting period, an in-depth study by the Sierra Club of Canada of the Nass River salmon fisheries earned top marks for NLG and Canada, who jointly manage the Nass River salmon fishery. "This is probably as good as it gets in salmon fisheries management," said report author David Levy, one of Canada's top salmon biologists. *The Nass River Salmon Fishery Report Card* gave the fishery an overall grade of "B" which would likely have been higher if it weren't for a region-wide decline of chum salmon along British Columbia's north coast. Because of conservation concerns, no directed fishery for chum salmon is permitted in the Nass River salmon fisheries.

A key feature of the fishery is a stock assessment system that was judged to be one of the best of any salmon fishery in the world. Of the report, British Columbia environmental journalist Terry Glavin said, "For years, we were told that the Nisga'a Treaty would be a disaster for the Nass River salmon fisheries. This clearly proves the critics were wrong. The Nisga'a and their partners in the federal government have set a fine example for what could be undertaken up and down British Columbia's coast."

2006–2007

During the 2006 fishing season, 270 Individual Sales Permits were sold to Nisga'a citizens and 60 were issued to individuals over 60 years of age, free of charge, during 9 sockeye openings and 2 coho openings.

2007–2008

During the 2007 fishing season, 222 Individual Sales Permits were sold to Nisga'a citizens and 49 were issued to individuals over 60 years of age, free of charge, during 6 sockeye openings and 2 coho openings.

Canada provided $500,000 to Nisga'a Fisheries Management Program for fisheries enhancement initiatives in the Nass Area.

British Columbia contributed $82,000 to Nisga'a Fisheries for steelhead stock assessment purposes.

Salmon Harvested since 2000

	Species	Individual fish caught	Revenue to local economy
2000*	sockeye	54,734	$900,000
2001*	sockeye	37,833	$386,126
2002	sockeye coho	87,918 2,425	$833,781
2003	sockeye coho	85,284 10,317	$984,708
2004	sockeye coho	91,426 10,294	$1,141,930
2005	sockeye coho	112,778 14,762	$665,556
2006^	sockeye coho pink chum chinook	62,422 5,261 2,912 935 1,896	$919,866
2007^	sockeye coho pink chum chinook	34,076 6,354 3,760 719 2,440	$616,051

*In 2000 and 2001, only sockeye were harvested. ^Starting in 2006, all harvested salmon species are included.

Lisims Fisheries Conservation Trust

The Nisga'a Fisheries Management Program applies the highest standards in the areas of conservation and environmental protection to ensure a healthy, productive aquatic ecosystem for the benefit of present and future generations. This commitment is ensured, in part, by the Lisims Fisheries Conservation Trust. Trustees appointed by NLG and Canada administer the trust, and recommendations from the Joint Fisheries Management Committee are taken into account in sponsoring projects, programs, and activities that are in keeping with the trust's objectives. The trust promotes conservation and protection of Nass Area fish species, facilitates sustainable management, and supports Nisga'a participation in fishery stewardship for the benefit of all Canadians.

Investment Status of Lisims Trust 2000–2006

	Jun 22/00	Dec 31/00	Dec 31/01	Dec 31/02	Dec 31/03	Dec 31/04	Dec 31/05	Dec 31/06	Dec 31/07
Net asset value	$13,459,847	$13,726,993	$13,722,641	$12,302,969	$12,211,358	$13,371,869	$14,857,367	$15,586,894	$15,646,909
Disburse-ment	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$313,000	$600,000	$600,000	$550,000

Wildlife Management

Together with its Treaty partners, NLG provides advice about wildlife management and harvesting within the 16,101 km² Nass Wildlife Area. British Columbia uses this information to establish wildlife allocations and approve the annual Nass Wildlife Management Plan. Under the Nisga'a Final Agreement, moose, mountain goat, and grizzly bear have been identified as initial "designated species" and a permit system and hunting allocation have been instituted. British Columbia, as per the Nisga'a Nation Fiscal Financing Agreement, provides $20,000 annually to NLG for wildlife management.

2006–2007

Grizzly bear monitoring for the Laxgalts'ap to Gingolx road project continued, including population, movement, habitat, DNA analysis. Since 2001, 1,881 hair samples have been submitted for analysis, identifying 32 individual grizzly bears.

2007–2008

Grizzly bear monitoring for the Laxgalts'ap to Gingolx road project continued. In 2007, 14 grizzly bears were identified in the project area. Highway signs, created to increase awareness, were erected in spring 2008.

NLG completed an aerial moose population survey and hunter surveys to monitor harvest. The estimated moose population was down from 1,600+ to 800+ individuals. A five-year conservation plan was implemented with the goal of rebuilding the population and mitigating commercial development impacts.

Sustainable Resource Management Planning

The Lands and Resources Directorate of the NLG has been working with representatives from the Integrated Land Management Bureau (ILMB), Skeena Region on a Sustainable Resource Management Plan (SRMP) for the southern portion of the Nass Watershed. The SRMP covers a large extent of the Nass Fisheries and Nass Wildlife Areas. With a planned completion date of March 31, 2009, the SRMP will establish resource management objectives for a variety of fish species, moose, mountain goat, grizzly bear, goshawk, wolverine, and fisher.

Infrastructure

Since 2000, British Columbia has invested $52 million to upgrade and pave Nisga'a Highway 113 from Lava Lake to New Aiyansh, Nass Camp, and Laxgalts'ap — connecting the Nisga'a Nation to North America's road network. In addition, Canada, British Columbia, and the Nisga'a Nation together invested $34 million to construct a new 29 km seal-coated highway from Laxgalts'ap to Gingolx. These investments and transportation infrastructure are improving the lives of Nisga'a people, bringing new visitors, and increasing access for the shipment of Nisga'a fish, seafood, and forest products. The workforce of these various construction projects was made up of approximately 40 percent Nisga'a citizens.

This map is not to scale and is for general information purposes only.

2006–2007

In spring 2007, British Columbia paved the highway from Laxgalts'ap to Gingolx.

2007–2008

NLG maintains that Nisga'a Highway is not complete until the Cranberry Forest Service Road is brought to highway standard. The Cranberry Forest Service Road is the section of gravel road between the Nass Camp and Highway 37. Due to flooding and Highway 16 landslides, NLG has expressed to British Columbia that work on the Cranberry Forest Service Road is required in order to provide secondary and emergency access for Terrace. In the Nisga'a Final Agreement, British Columbia has expressed its long-term goal to see the completion of this extension. As such, British Columbia will consider the extension of the Nisga'a Highway from the Nass Camp to connect with Highway 37, in accordance with provincial priorities.

British Columbia completed the legal surveys of portions of the Nisga'a Highway Corridor. NLG reviewed and accepted these plans, which were filed in the Crown Land Registry.

Land Development

2006–2007	2007–2008
NLG received an application from Gitxatin MHind World Link Ltd. for a licence of occupation to explore, exploit, and extract aggregate materials from an area adjacent to and north of Gingolx Village Lands along Observatory Inlet. The application was subsequently revised and amended.	A new application was submitted by Nass Valley Gateway Ltd. for a permit to explore the quality of aggregate materials and the suitability of those materials for various markets. As the application is for more than 5 hectares (approx. 138 ha), NLG Executive will seek the consent of WSN. The application will be reviewed in 2008.
British Columbia invited NLG and community to attend the "Minerals North: Back to the Future" conference and trade show in Terrace and provided $500 in funding through the Association of Mineral Exploration British Columbia for participation.	NLG participated in a number of working groups established by British Columbia, such as the Northwest Transmission Line Working Group and the Mount Klappan Coal Project Working Group. On the latter, NLG provided comments on the draft terms of reference for the proponent's application for an environmental assessment certificate.

Offshore Oil & Gas

British Columbia and NLG entered into a Protocol Respecting Offshore Oil and Gas in January 2005. The protocol committed the parties to work together to provide information to Nisga'a Villages on the potential environmental, economic, social and cultural benefits, risks or opportunities arising from the exploration and development of offshore oil and gas; identify Nisga'a Nation interests and concerns; and explore how those interests and concerns can be addressed.

2006–2007	2007–2008
As part of the protocol, British Columbia provided NLG with a total of $283,495, to be used to: > organize a workshop on offshore oil and gas for NLG Executive, officers and senior employees > conduct workshops in the four Nisga'a Villages as well as for Nisga'a people living in Vancouver, Terrace, and Prince Rupert > conduct a fact-finding trip to Cook Inlet, Alaska > conduct a survey and interviews to obtain views of Nisga'a citizens > hold a final workshop to provide recommendations for further activities.	British Columbia provided information on the *Oil and Gas Activities Act* to inform NLG of the legislative initiative and to continue to foster ongoing cooperation.

Hydroelectric

Since 2004, NLG has been investigating the feasibility of small "run of river" hydroelectric projects on Nisga'a Lands. Since then, NLG staff have assisted in completing stream data collection in support of feasibility studies.

2006–2007	2007–2008
Feasibility studies continued. Nisga'a Commercial Group of Companies became involved in stream gauging.	It was determined that the current price being offered for power in BC Hydro's Standing Offer Program is insufficient for the project's feasibility.

Fiscal Financing Agreement

In accordance with the Nisga'a Final Agreement, the Nisga'a Nation, Canada, and British Columbia entered into a Nisga'a Nation Fiscal Financing Agreement (FFA) on May 11, 2000. The FFA was due to expire on March 31, 2006, but in accordance with its provisions, it was automatically extended to March 31, 2008.

Starting in the first reporting period and continuing in the second, tripartite work took place preparing a new draft FFA, which would replace the existing FFA upon final approval by each of the parties. In the previous reporting period, culminating in a presentation made on December 23, 2005, NLG had provided its submission to Canada and British Columbia respecting the global funding it sought for agreed-upon public programs and services to be provided under a further fiscal financing agreement for the Nisga'a Nation. A formal response was not provided to the NLG submission by the end of the second reporting period. NLG continued to be informed by federal representatives that Canada needed to secure a federal mandate to negotiate the renewal of the FFA. At the end of the second reporting period Canada had not yet secured the required mandate. In the opinion of NLG, this delay has resulted in a financial cost to the Nisga'a Nation.

At the end of these reporting periods, the existing FFA was in its second year of extension. Before the end of the second reporting period, the parties agreed to extend the existing FFA for a third year to March 31, 2009.

Individual Nisga'a Citizen Land Holding Project

There is a clear link between the way in which people hold title to their land and their ability to generate capital for economic development. Developing countries and their citizens are crippled by their inability to use the title to their lands as a means of raising capital. No longer bound by the *Indian Act*, this should not be the case for the Nisga'a Nation or its citizens. Yet Nisga'a citizens are currently unable to benefit from the equity in their homes and Nisga'a Villages are unable to capitalize on their assets. The Individual Nisga'a Citizen Land Holding Project aims to change this.

2006–2007

NLG Executive directed legal counsel and staff to develop a work plan and discussion paper that would consider ways to enable access to this potential capital. This resulted in a series of meetings in all Nisga'a Villages and Nisga'a Urban Local areas to discuss the wishes and concerns of individuals relating to the current Nisga'a Village Entitlement/Nisga'a Nation Entitlement system. Following these consultations, NLG began to consider amendments to Nisga'a legislation to provide individual Nisga'a land holders with ownership of fee simple estates registered in the Nisga'a land title system with unrestricted transferability.

This represents a potentially significant change. Because Nisga'a citizens would own their lots in fee simple, they could be mortgaged, leased, or transferred to anyone, Nisga'a or non-Nisga'a, aboriginal or non-aboriginal. It would be possible to sell an Entitlement, but it would also be possible to lose it to a mortgage default. The legislative structure currently being considered would not make fee simple ownership mandatory — individuals could choose to retain their Nisga'a Village Entitlement or Nisga'a Nation Entitlement.

Nisga'a Commercial Group of Companies

To ensure the separation between commercial interests and government programs and services, the Nisga'a Nation created Nisga'a corporations to fulfill specific needs, such as marketing fish, managing forest resources, building a telecommunications infrastructure, and promoting tourism. These businesses are managed through the Nisga'a Commercial Group of Companies (NCG), with a mission to improve and sustain the economic wealth and well-being of the Nisga'a Nation and its citizens by being well managed, profitable, and having a reputation for excellence.

The Nisga'a Commercial Group of Companies is wholly owned by the Nisga'a Nation, but professionally managed by an independent Board of Directors made up of leading members of the business community who provide a wealth of experience and candid advice:

> Mike Harcourt, Chair
> Chris McNeil, Vice-chair
> Jean LaRose, Secretary-treasurer
> Dr. Milton Wong
> Dr. Joe Gosnell
> Dr. Brent Mainprize, and
> Brenda Baptiste.

In 2005, Nisga'a Commercial Group of Companies committed to cutting red ink and to ending the constant cash subsidy provided by NLG. Since that time, no additional operating or capital funds have been sought from NLG other than for services provided. In turn, the companies have returned funds to NLG for silviculture, fees, and subsidization of fishery operations.

Nisga'a Commercial Group of Companies performance since 2005

(thousands of dollars)	Fiscal 2005–2006	Fiscal 2006–2007	Fiscal 2007–2008
Forest Resources	$376	$197	$609
Telecommunications	(384)	(77)	(9)
Fisheries	(200)	(119)	(167)
Tourism	(26)	(139)	(95)
Total – Operations	(234)	(138)	334
Net Corporate Expenses	(973)	(83)	(609)
Net Income	$(1,207)	$(221)	$(275)

GOING FORWARD > The Nisga'a Commercial Group of Companies is currently considering investments in other businesses, such as construction and road maintenance, and looking for office services in Terrace.

Fisheries

The Canadian Fish Company and NCG pay Nisga'a fishers for their harvest, market their fish, operate three landing sites on the Nass River, and are responsible for grading, counting, and weighing salmon for payment. They also distribute flaked ice to Nisga'a fishers and oversee the transportation of all salmon to a central depot located at the Nisga'a Fresh Fish Plant in New Aiyansh.

2006–2007

In order to get the best price for the resource, Fisheries achieved full participation at the wholesale price level in the commercial fishery.

2007–2008

Lower than average salmon returns and depressed pricing continued to challenge the Fisheries operations.

GOING FORWARD > Due to plummeting salmon stocks across the Pacific Northwest, it is anticipated that commercial fishing on the Nass River will be negligible or even closed in 2008.

Forest Resources

Forest Resources manages the marketing and sale of Nisga'a forest resources and is working to expand and diversify the market for Nisga'a forest products. In addition to domestic clients, Forest Resources sells Nisga'a wood to China, Japan, and Korea, and is actively seeking partners to develop value-added wood products for domestic and international customers. Forest Resources is also seeking partners to expand harvest of over a dozen other marketable botanical forest products, including lobster mushrooms, King boletus mushrooms, fiddleheads, and wild medicinal herbs.

2006–2007	2007–2008
Forest Resources saw improved returns on forest operations.	Profits on forest operations increased substantially, to $605,000.
Botanical Forest Product (mushroom) operations expanded.	

GOING FORWARD > A difficult logging season is forecast for 2008–2009 due to the rise in the Canadian dollar and the increased cost of transportation from Canada to Asia. However, Forest Resources expects to be more involved in ancillary operations such as brushing and weeding, pine beetle infestation investigation, and recreational areas maintenance.

Telecommunications (enTel)

After the Effective Date of the Treaty, NLG committed to bringing high-speed Internet access to the Nass Valley to support economic and social development of the Nisga'a Nation. To meet this challenge, NLG created enTel Communications Inc., which is now bringing broadband Internet access to the Nass Valley and beyond.

2006–2007	2007–2008
enTel refocused its customer service operations and a new central customer service position was established.	British Columbia gave assurance that enTel's fibre optic line through Lava Bed Park can proceed in 2008. This will result in a more secure broadband service, and opens the possibility for cable TV, cell phone service, and improvement in services provided by Telus.

GOING FORWARD > Priorities include completion of fibre optic line from Terrace to the Nass Valley and continued improvement in operations and customer service.

NCG Tourism

NCG Tourism has been working to develop three tours that directly and positively reflect Nisga'a culture and the sustainable uses of Nisga'a Lands. Working with representatives of the four Nisga'a Villages, the goal of NCG Tourism is to create employment and open the Nass Valley to visitors from around the world while highlighting a culture rich in history. These activities will create between 25 and 35 seasonal jobs.

2007–2008

- > Working with WWNI, the Nisga'a Commercial Group created an extensive training program for all tour operation employees. This program is anticipated to lead to a 10-course certificate in Tourist Services being developed in partnership with Northwest Community College.
- > A partnership was established with the Aboriginal Tourism Association of British Columbia to utilize their expertise and services in marketing and building aboriginal tourism.
- > Investment options for increasing visitor lodging in the Nass Valley were investigated.
- > NCG Tourism proposed an operation and maintenance contract for the Nisga'a Memorial Lava Bed Park (in conjunction with the Nass Valley Tourism Society).
- > A review and assessment of possible recreation use sites was completed.
- > Lava cone and fish wheel tours were developed and marketed.
- > A Tourism Division Manager was hired.
- > Negotiations began toward developing additional tours and excursions with other tourist service providers in the Nass Valley.

GOING FORWARD > Investment in the tourism sector will increase and three tour packages will be launched in summer 2008: Nisga'a Memorial Lava Bed and Cone Tour; Nisga'a Fish Wheel Tour; and Mushroom, Herb, and Botanicals Tour.

WE INSPIRE TRUST AND UNDERSTANDING THROUGH EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION

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COMMUNICATIONS & INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

The Communications and Intergovernmental Relations Directorate of Nisga'a Lisims Government was established in order to improve the way government members communicate with each other, Nisga'a citizens, its Treaty partners, and the wider world. To meet this challenge, the following initiatives were undertaken.

2006–2007	2007–2008
The "Voices of Nisga'a Citizens" project outlined the role of government in economic development and sought feedback from Nisga'a citizens. NLG has adopted this study as a roadmap and has singled out five of the top recommendations for action.	Emergency Operations Centre activation: In April 2007, the Nass Valley was struck by a power outage due to heavy snowfalls. This marked the first time that the NLG Emergency Preparedness Plan was called into action. The success of the plan meant that the Nisga'a Nation was one of only a few affected communities not required to invoke a local state of emergency.
Redesign and re-engineering of NLG website.	Launch of new NLG website, www.nisgaalisims.ca.
Development of a new website for Nisga'a citizens, Nisga'a Nation Knowledge Network (NNKN).	Launch of NNKN website, available at www.nnkn.ca.
Development and production of a new NLG government information package.	Launch of improved NLG newsletter.
	NLG, British Columbia, and Canada agreed to prepare a two-year tripartite implementation report.

NLG's Affiliation with the Land Claims Agreements Coalition

NLG is a member of the Lands Claims Agreements Coalition, which represents all aboriginal groups in Canada that have completed modern treaties. The Coalition's primary purpose has been to ensure that comprehensive land claims and associated self-government agreements are respected, honoured and fully implemented in order to achieve their objectives. Through its participation in the Coalition, NLG has shared its experiences, and frustrations, in working with Canada and British Columbia to implement the Treaty.

In the 2007–2008 reporting year, NLG participated in presentations before the Senate Standing Committee on Aboriginal Peoples, on behalf of the Nisga'a Nation and the Coalition, on the implementation of modern treaties in Canada. The Senate Committee's work culminated in an interim report containing a number of recommendations that are consistent with the principles of treaty implementation that the Lands Claims Agreements Coalition endorses.

Implementation Policy

During the reporting periods, meetings were held between representatives of federal, aboriginal and provincial/territorial signatories to modern treaties to discuss federal approaches to the implementation of agreements. NLG maintains that, while it is possible that a technical review may produce new information and perspectives regarding the implementation of treaties, it falls short of what is urgently needed — a new federal implementation policy.

Public Consultation

NLG learns through listening. There has been an increase in the number of public consultations held over the past two years. Surveys were conducted into social assistance services, and public consultations were held on the following topics:

- fee simple land holdings
- the state of the commercial fishery
- annual fishing plans
- needs and priorities in economic development, and
- offshore oil and gas development.

A Nisga'a community survey was conducted on the population of Nisga'a communities. Each of these consultations has helped provide NLG with an opportunity to listen and learn as a means of ensuring that governance and services continue to meet the needs of the people.

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NISGA'A PROGRAMS & SERVICES

Guided by Nisga'a culture, and best practices from around the world, Nisga'a Lisims Government works to improve the lives of Nisga'a people. In partnership with the four Nisga'a Village Governments, NLG delivers a wide range of culturally appropriate programs and services in the areas of health, education, social development, local services, and access to justice.

Nisga'a Valley Health Authority

Nisga'a Government manages the delivery of healthcare in Nisga'a communities through the Nisga'a Valley Health Authority (NVHA). Registered under the *Societies Act*, the elected body includes representatives from the four Nisga'a Villages and an elected representative from the non-Nisga'a community. Responsible for creating and maintaining facilities and promoting medical and public healthcare programs, NVHA operates a diagnostic centre in New Aiyansh and satellite clinics in the other Nisga'a Villages, providing physician services, home care, cultural community health representatives, and administration of non-insured health benefits. NVHA is one of the most progressive, efficient, and effective First Nations healthcare organizations in Canada.

2007–2008

British Columbia provided four $1,000 grants to the Nisga'a Valley Health Authority under the Honour Your Health Challenge, which was developed through the BC Aboriginal Tobacco Strategy and provides training for aboriginal people to help them work with their communities to raise awareness about health and tobacco issues.

In addition to the federally supported health programs and services within the Nisga'a Treaty, the Nisga'a Nation received the following programs, totalling $980,918, via a contribution agreement with Health Canada First Nation and Inuit Health: Aboriginal Diabetes Initiative, Aboriginal Head Start, First Nations and Inuit Home and Community Care Program, HIV/AIDS, First Nations and Inuit Health Information/E Health Solutions, and Communicable Disease Control.

Nisga'a Child & Family Services

With funding from both Canada and British Columbia, NLG provides service options to ensure the protection and well-being of Nisga'a children consistent with both the Ayuukhl Nisga'a and British Columbia statutes and policies. By maintaining the Nisga'a family through the utilization of the Ayuuk, Nisga'a Child and Family Services (NCFS) works to ensure the well-being of all Nisga'a children.

NCFS provides support services for families, which promote sound parenting practices and respite care. Voluntary care agreements allow parents to place their children in a safe, approved home during medical treatment or training. Special-needs agreements ensure the safe care of children with special needs. NCFS approves and provides ongoing support payments to adults to provide foster care for Nisga'a children in Nisga'a family care homes. NCFS also provides resources for the following programs:

- Youth Worker Program
- Community Workshops
- Speech Therapy
- Drug Awareness Resistance Education
- Psychological Services
- Family Support Services, and
- Recreation Program.

The children-in-care rate in the Nass Valley is less than two percent, which is lower than both the provincial and national rate for First Nations communities, where the average rates are ten percent. NCFS completed a third year without a single apprehension in the four Nisga'a Villages.

In the near term, a comprehensive review of social development programs will be initiated.

2006–2007	2007–2008
New program: Supported Childcare Development for Children with Special Needs.	New program: Family Group Conferencing, offering preventative out-of-court mediation for families with children.
New program: Infancy Development Program for Children Newborn to Age 3.	NLG secured Community Preventative Services funding for the four Nisga'a Villages and three Urban Locals.
With NLG, British Columbia examined the possibility of supporting NCFS in providing guardianship services immediately outside of Nisga'a Lands, and even as far away as Greater Vancouver.	British Columbia agreed to examine the feasibility of NCFS providing services to Nisga'a children and families in the Vancouver area, so long as such services are viable, improve services for Nisga'a children, and do not compromise the provision of services to other non-Nisga'a children and families in the area.

Social Development Services

NLG is committed to supporting healthy and economically prosperous Nisga'a communities where children, youth, and adults have hope and opportunities, and access to social programs that support a healthy living standard. This is accomplished by developing individual and family strengths and by providing access to social services that will enhance their self-sufficiency. As social policies are continuously evolving, NLG keeps apprised of any provincial changes and ensures NLG's policies and services are reasonably comparable to those available to residents elsewhere in British Columbia. The following programs are funded through the FFA:

- > Basic Needs
- > Special Needs
- > Guardian Financial Assistance
- > Adult In-Home Care
- > National Child Benefit Reinvestment
- > Training Employment Support
- > Family Violence Prevention
- > Community Support Services
- > Employment Initiatives, and
- > Community Preventative Services.

2006–2007	2007–2008
A review of the Social Development program was launched. The resulting 40-page "Biblow Report" contains 23 recommendations. NLG is working with the four Nisga'a Villages to jointly develop a work plan to implement these recommendations.	A series of six meetings was held with social development workers and administrators in the Nisga'a Villages to discuss the Social Development Review recommendations.
Employee Initiatives funds were created from Social Assistance surplus funds.	

Access to Justice

NLG's Access to Justice Department supports the prevention and resolution of conflicts by increasing awareness of the Ayuuk and Canadian laws, legal processes, and traditions through the following programs: Aboriginal Justice, Yuuhlimk'askw Program, and the Lisims Nass Valley RCMP Victim Services Program. The Access to Justice Department manages the programs under the administration of NLG in partnership with other organizations and receives funding through annual contribution agreements from:

> Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General (Corrections Branch)	$58,935
> Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General (Policing and Community Safety Branch)	$18,000
> Department of Justice and the Attorney General of Canada	$47,600
> Nisga'a Lisims Government	$ 9,473

2007–2008

The Nisga'a Nation, Canada, and British Columbia undertook negotiations for a Community Tripartite Agreement for continued policing services in the Nass Valley, which for the first time includes the enforcement of Nisga'a laws.

The Nisga'a Nation, Canada, and British Columbia completed a Community Tripartite Policing Agreement (CTA) that ends on March 31, 2009. The goal of this agreement is to ensure that the Nisga'a Nation receives community policing services by the RCMP – First Nation Community Police Service – that are culturally sensitive, responsive to Nisga'a needs, and enhance the level of policing services.

Nisga'a Registry of Laws

The Nisga'a Registry of laws is housed in NLG's offices and may be accessed by the public. Updated on a regular basis, the Registry consists of more than 150 enactments, many of which are now available on NLG websites at: www.nisgaalisims.ca and www.nnkn.ca.

In the reporting periods, WSN amended and/or reenacted the following legislation:

2006–2007

Nisga'a Interpretation Act
Nisga'a Personnel Administration Act
Nisga'a Government Act and
Nisga'a Government Regulation
Nisga'a Offence Act and
Nisga'a Enforcement Regulation
Nisga'a Fisheries Regulation, 2002
Nisga'a Land Title Act and *Nisga'a Land Title Regulation*

2007–2008*

Nisga'a Financial Administration Act
Nisga'a Citizenship Act
Nisga'a Land Title Regulation
Nisga'a Forest Act

In addition, during the 2007–2008 reporting period, WSN enacted the following new legislation:
Nisga'a Fisheries Designation Regulation
Nisga'a Fisheries and Wildlife Regulation No. 2, 2007
Nisga'a Business Development Fund Act

*All Nisga'a legislation amended since the time of its original enactment by WSN was consolidated. These unofficial consolidations are updated regularly, as new amendments are made.

Nisga'a Consumer Taxation

Taxation and the provision of programs and services for citizens are characteristic and related features of governments. That is, governments levy taxes within their lands and utilize the tax revenues they raise to enhance the quality of life for their citizens.

In accordance with the Nisga'a Final Agreement, the relief from consumption taxes — either in the form of a tax exemption or remission orders — will expire, on June 1, 2008, for all persons within Nisga'a Lands and for Nisga'a citizens in other parts of Canada. During the reporting periods, a technical working group that included a representative from each of British Columbia, Canada, and the Nisga'a Nation was established to consider whether the Nisga'a Nation might benefit from levying its own tax on consumption that is attributable to citizens and other persons within Nisga'a Lands.

In 2007–08, the Nisga'a Nation and Canada concluded most elements of a draft tax administration agreement for a Nisga'a Nation Goods and Services Tax. The proposed tax agreement contemplates a law being enacted by the Nisga'a Lisims Government to impose a tax, like the federal Goods and Services Tax, within Nisga'a Lands. The Nisga'a Nation and Canada expect the tax agreement will come into effect in 2008–09. When the tax agreement comes into effect, the federal GST will no longer apply where the Nisga'a GST applies.

The Nisga'a Nation and British Columbia also concluded a Social Services Tax Sharing Revenue Agreement during the reporting period with the intention of having that agreement take effect on June 1, 2008.

Nisga'a Settlement Trust

Under the Nisga'a Final Agreement, the capital transfer to the Nisga'a Nation is paid over 14 years. NLG has retained an independent consultant to assist in the development of the risk budgeting framework for these funds, known as the Nisga'a Settlement Trust.

Where other elected administrations routinely plan four to five years in the future, the primary goal of the Nisga'a Settlement Trust is to provide financial stability to the Nisga'a Nation through the seventh generation. One of the challenges is balancing the preservation of capital with earning a sufficient return to accomplish this goal. It is imperative that the funds in trust maintain their value and be invested in a manner that earns a rate of return greater than inflation. NLG has engaged a firm of actuaries to assist in developing policy so that these goals can be reasonably attained.

As a result of this process, NLG established investment guidelines including manager performance in relation to market performance, asset mix, and other factors related to a successful professionally administered investment portfolio. The NLG consultant employed sophisticated economic modeling to identify risk preference as part of the risk/budget analysis. Part of the process included a request for proposals from managers of various investment markets. These managers, who had been pre-screened by the NLG Investment Policy Working Group, then presented to the Nisga'a Finance Committee, who made the final selections. The final investment policy and managers were then recommended to Royal Trust as trustees of the Settlement Trust. The fund value on March 31, 2007, was $62,432,965, and by March 31, 2008, it had reached $82,472,897. It is expected that the trust will grow to approximately $350 million over the next 30 years. As long as it remains well managed, it is estimated that income from the trust will help to sustain government funding in the future.

Youth in Government

NLG is committed to improving access for Nisga'a youth to programs and services by involving them in the social and economic decision-making of government. This is accomplished through the Nisga'a Youth Advisory Council (NYAC). Each Nisga'a Village and Urban Local has its own Nisga'a Youth Council, which sends a representative to the seven-member NYAC.

NLG, in partnership with Rural Voices and the Federal Rural Secretariat, launched the Integrated Hub Model project in April 2005. The program is being used as a test model for Canada's Models for Rural Development and Community Capacity Building Research Initiative. Objectives include:

> supporting youth leadership and capacity building
> identifying barriers in community service integration, and
> informing government policy development, program development, and service sector training opportunities.

2006–2007	2007–2008
Youth Organizing Youth Project launched. Involving 16 youth, over a two-year period, the focus of the project is to mobilize youth to help increase both participation in the decision-making of the Nisga'a Nation and involvement in the broader community.	Youth Organizing Youth Project continued.
A Youth Policy Forum was held to begin the process of gaining official Nisga'a Government recognition. NYAC became not only a standing committee of NLG but also gained a seat on the Programs and Services Committee.	A second Youth Policy Forum was held, which saw NYAC take an active role in the development of "Youth Council Roles, Responsibilities, Policies and Procedures" which will govern how youth councils will function within their communities.
A Youth Special Assembly was held in Gitwinksihlkw with over 200 youth delegates attending the three-day event.	A three-year connection was established with youth from the Yukon Territory through the Skookum Jim Friendship Centre, Whitehorse. This relationship will facilitate a cultural exchange with youth from the Yukon Territory.

Transparency & Accountability

A pillar in the foundation of good governance is a government's ability to maintain transparency and accountability in its day-to-day operation.

The *Constitution of the Nisga'a Nation* (Nisga'a Constitution) came into effect on May 11, 2000 and provides for the establishment of Nisga'a Lisims Government, each of the four Nisga'a Village Governments and the three Nisga'a Urban Locals. The Nisga'a Constitution further called for the establishment of Nisga'a Laws which, among other things, contain provisions for accountability and transparency in government decision-making and financial administration.

One of more than 150 laws enacted since the Effective Date, the *Nisga'a Government Act* stipulates requirements for the frequency of meetings of various bodies, such as Wilp Si'ayuukhl Nisga'a (WSN), NLG Executive, Council of Elders, and all other House committees of Nisga'a Government. The *Nisga'a Government Act* also enforces the Members' Code of Conduct, which specifies requirements with respect to the conduct of each elected and appointed Nisga'a Representative while serving in their official capacity.

The Nisga'a Government's standards of financial administration are comparable to standards generally accepted for governments in Canada. There are requirements in Nisga'a Laws for budgets, quarterly reports, annual reports, and audits of the financial activities of Nisga'a Government and Nisga'a Public Institutions. The *Nisga'a Financial Administration Act* stipulates details for oversight, management and control of all financial matters of the Nisga'a Nation, Nisga'a Government, and Nisga'a Public Institutions. Under the *Nisga'a Financial Administration Act* there must be an annual independent audit of financial statements of the Nisga'a Government and Nisga'a Public Institutions which is made available for inspection by Nisga'a citizens and is available on the Nisga'a Lisims Government website: www.nisgaalisims.ca. The Nisga'a Nation is also accountable to the governments of Canada and British Columbia for the funding provided by those governments and fulfils this obligation by submitting reports and audits, annually or as required. In 2004, Nisga'a Government adopted an NLG Stipends and Honouraria Policy to establish a system of standard remuneration packages for Nisga'a Representatives based on the level of work and attendance at meetings required of them.

Showcasing the Nisga'a Government's accountability to its own citizens, Special Assemblies are held every two years, where the Nisga'a Government reports on all areas of governance and public programs. Every Nisga'a citizen has the right to attend and speak at a Special Assembly and the assembly is webcast to ensure all Nisga'a citizens are able to participate.

As required by the Nisga'a Final Agreement, the Nisga'a Constitution also provides for:

> challenging the validity of Nisga'a laws
> elections held at least every five years in which all Nisga'a citizens who meet residency and age requirements are eligible to vote
> conflict of interest rules that are comparable to standards generally accepted for governments in Canada
> recognizing and protecting the rights and freedoms of Nisga'a citizens, and
> amending the Nisga'a Constitution.

NISGA'A LISIMS GOVERNMENT – SUMMARY FINANCIAL INFORMATION, MARCH 31, 2007

This summary has been prepared without audit. All amounts are in the March 31, 2007, audited financial statements or have been calculated from those statements. These statements are available to all Nisga'a citizens by appointment.

Summarized Statement of Financial Position

ASSETS	2007	2006
Cash and other current assets	$9,013,024	$7,460,946
Nisga'a Final Agreement Proceeds Receivable	142,095,618	147,931,309
Capital Finance Commission Proceeds Receivable	86,709,991	89,699,991
Cash set aside and designated for specific purposes	23,733,916	24,014,870
Nisga'a Settlement Trust	62,432,965	48,832,433
Other assets	2,047,316	2,276,269
Total Assets	$326,032,830	$320,215,818
LIABILITIES		
Bank indebtedness and other current liabilities	$7,368,544	$8,941,628
Nisga'a Final Agreement debt payable	60,971,004	59,912,000
Other liabilities	49,835	63,820
Total Liabilities	68,389,383	68,917,448
Net Financial Assets	257,643,447	251,298,370
Physical Assets — mostly buildings and equipment	17,368,142	16,270,957
Net Government Position	$275,011,589	$267,569,327

SUMMARIZED STATEMENT OF REVENUE AND EXPENDITURES

REVENUE		
Fiscal Financing Agreement	$38,302,412	$36,874,996
Other revenues	22,810,247	18,933,861
Total	61,112,659	55,808,857
Transfers and operating grants		
Nisga'a Village Governments	16,042,705	14,814,768
Nisga'a Valley Health Board	10,890,542	10,380,479
Nisga'a School Board #92	7,723,651	7,646,744
Wilp Wilxo'oskwhl Nisga'a	435,766	432,850
Nisga'a Urban Locals	1,017,817	938,862
Total	36,110,481	34,213,703
Government Operating Expenses	18,301,927	18,503,230
Excess of revenue over expenses from government activities	6,700,251	3,091,924
Share of Nisga'a Commercial Group profit (loss)	(369,158)	(870,417)
Total Nation excess of revenue over expenses	$6,331,093	$2,221,507

These two maps are representational and not to scale and are for general information purposes only.

The Nisga'a Final Agreement (the Treaty) is British Columbia's first modern treaty. A landmark in the relationship between Canada and its First Nations peoples, the Treaty came into effect on May 11, 2000.

The governments of Canada, British Columbia, and the Nisga'a Nation are partners in the Nisga'a Final Agreement, which sets out Nisga'a Lands and the Nisga'a people's right of self-government. Because three governments share responsibility for the Treaty, an implementation committee was formed to provide a forum for the partners to discuss its implementation. This report summarizes the progress made in the seventh and eighth years of the Nisga'a Final Agreement, from April 1, 2006 to March 31, 2007, and April 1, 2007 to March 31, 2008.